

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Ministry for Heavy Industry: Most Important Accidents and Breakdowns	DATE DISTR.	23 May 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED
Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The Chief Dispatcher of the East German Ministry for Heavy Industry is required by the ministerial directive of 6 January 1954 to report all
- a) breakdowns involving fatal or other serious accidents;
 - b) breakdowns endangering plan fulfillment;
 - c) breakdowns causing considerable physical damage (at least 5,000 DME) or substantial loss of production (at least 10,000 DME);
 - d) breakdowns which seriously endanger the safety of the plant, which cannot be overcome within eight hours and which could have the effect of bringing entire production sections or departments to a standstill.

25X1

During the course of 1954 the Chief Dispatcher reported 174 fatal accidents under category a) and 319 breakdowns under categories b), c) and d). Of these:

	a)	b), c) and d)	
Main Administration Electrical Power	8	--	
Main Administration Gas	4	15	25X1
Main Administration Lignite	61	--	
Main Administration Pit Coal	12	13	
Main Administration Steel Industry	19	89	
Main Administration Non-ferrous Metals	9	19	
Main Administration Metallurgy Auxiliary	2	7	25X1
Main Administration General Chemicals	4	19	
Main Administration Synthetic Materials	8	14	
Main Administration Heavy Chemicals	17	39	
Main Administration Liquid Fuels	9	42	
Main Administration Potash and Non-metallic Ores Mining	21	62	25X1

The Main Administration for Electrical Power did not establish a systematic reporting system on breakdowns until the end of 1954. Thus the extent of disruptions in the power plants and power distribution installations cannot be determined for 1954.

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-2-

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2. While the Main Administration for Lignite reported all disturbances in a daily situation report, this information was not statistically ~~submitted~~ in the Chief Dispatcher's Office nor in the Main Administration. However, the Technical Mining Inspection reports the following disturbances in lignite mining:

149 Collisions
27 De-railings
42 Slides
5 Pit fires (underground)
135 Fires in briquette factories
39 Explosions

417 Recorded incidents

3. A classification of the 319 disturbances reported by the remaining Main Administrations into types of breakdowns gives the following picture:

a) Breakdowns in power generating and distributing installations:

(exclusive of HV Electrical Power and Lignite)	Total 84 - 26.1%
in boiler plants	28
in turbines and generators	22
in switch and transformer plants	8
in transformer failures	5
in line failures including cable fires	15
in other electrical installations	6

b) Breakdowns in gas production: Total 11 - 3.5%

in coke furnace blocks	4
in gas generators	4
in compressors	3

c) Breakdowns in pit installations and underground mining:

(exclusive of fires)	Total 22 - 6.9%
in shafts and machinery	14
in mining equipment	4
in water and gas breaks	2
in scavenging duct breaks	2

d) Breakdowns in metallurgical production installations:

Total 51 - 16. %

in furnace plants:	Total 31
furnace breakdowns in EKS	5
other disturbances in blast furnaces in EKS	14
breakdown of furnace 9 in Eisenwerk West	1
breakdown of electric furnace in Doehlan	1
breakdown of SM-furnace in Hennigsdorf	1
other disturbances in various furnaces	9
in rolling mills:	Total 20
motor and machinery damage	15
roll breakage	2
roller bearing damage	2
roll stand housing crack	1
breakdown of a Wippenschwingwelle	1
shears damage	1

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-3-

25X1

e) Breakdowns in chemical production installations:
(exclusive of fires and explosions)

Total 21 = 6.6%

in tar, oil, gasoline production installations	4
in various furnace installations	8
in oxygen installations	2
in sulphuric acid production	1
in soda production	2
in explosives manufacture	2
in vulcanization installations	1
in rubber presses	1

f) Breakdowns in vehicle and transportation means:
(exclusive of lignite mining)

Total 29 = 9.1%

in collisions	4
in de-railings	1
in other traffic disturbances	5
in cable railway disturbances	8
in perpetual conveyors	10
in crane installations	1

g) Breakdowns in general procurement equipment and means of communication:

Total 18 = 5.7%

in steam conduits	1
in water pipes and conduits for other liquids	13
in gas piping	4

h) Production disturbances as a result of shortages of raw materials, primary materials (Vormaterial) and power:

Total 46 = 14.4%

in fuel shortages	19
in current shortages	6
in gas shortages	3
in cokes shortages	3
in dye raw materials	5
in crude phosphate	4
in various raw materials (crude oil, wood powder, Perborat, packing material, detonating wire, intermediate fuel products)	6

i) Breakdowns due to weather conditions:

(exclusive of Main Administration Electric Power and Lignite)

Total 12 = 3.8%

as a result of frost	7
as a result of storms	5
(floods are reported separately)	

j) Fires and Explosions:

(exclusive of Main Administration for Electric Power and Lignite, and without pit fires, explosions and other fires in briquette factories)

Total 25 = 7.9%

in hydrogenation installations	11
in explosives factories	2
in synthetic material factories	3
in general chemical plants and dye factories	5
in metallurgical plants and steel mills	4

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